

Greenways
near Knockholt
near Sevenoaks
Kent

7-052 1966
Gypsy News
letter

September 29th., 1966

Dear Ned and Lucy and family (Reilly, Dublin)

Well, how are you getting on? We heard that the site at Ballyfermot wouldn't be ready before next Spring. But still it is something to look forward to, though it's three years we've been waiting now. They take their time. I suppose the Corporation will leave you on the road there until the site is ready. It's the least they can do.

We're camped in a lane here in Kent (the above address will get us). Nobody has noticed we're here yet and we're moving up into London soon.

The other day I was at Derby Smith's funeral. I don't know what relation this old man, over eighty years old, was to your father or to old Angelina Gray in Dublin but they were connected in somehow, I'm sure. There were over a hundred of the Smith family at the funeral at Lingfield Church and more than sixty wreaths were sent.

We hope to go over to France next week to meet Vanko Rouda, who was at Ballinasloe last year, and other Gypsy people. France is only 50 miles from here. It is like going from Dublin to Liverpool, that's all. The Gypsy people in France have bought a great mansion and lands, each family paying £5 towards it. There were five thousand travelling people stopping there the other week, so you can imagine how big the place is.

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There is a committee here in Kent which includes Jasper Smith, Joe Copper and others. There are about six proper sites in this county and others in Surrey. One at Outwood, Surrey, where Dery Smith's funeral took place, has washing machines for everybody's use, yards for carrying on timber trade, a telephone and other things. There is going to be a community centre soon for dancing and meetings. I hope the one at Ballyfermot will be as good. That's up to those who go onto it, I suppose.

I heard from Henry Gray in Rochdale that everybody has moved out of Cherry Orchard. Has it been cleared altogether? It served its purpose, anyway. We're still telling people how the travellers built the school and everything and some families hope to do the same down here this winter. At one camp the children have been making a garden.

We look forward to hearing your news. I hope the children are getting on well at school. In the meanwhile give our love to Nora and John Brien, Mary and Paddy Flynn, Maggie and Mick Connors, Jim Connors, Luke, Jerry and Martin Wall (if you see them), all the Delaneys and everyone else.